

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CU-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

AID-05 /061 W

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R 201304Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9014

USDA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 2308

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: GOB INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

REF: BATJER LETTER TO ASSTSEC YEUTTER, NOV 11

1. DEPTS OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE WILL RECALL THAT WHEN DEPUTY PREMIER POPOV WAS IN WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER, HE SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN COOPERATION BETWEEN BULGARIAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. HE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES, AND GOB IS NOW INTERESTED IN INSTITUTIONALIZING SUCH COOPERATION. FIRST DEPMIN FOREIGN TRADE LUKANOV HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT. WHILE HE UNDERSTANDS THAT IT DOES NOT REQUIRE USG APPROVAL, HE SOLICITED SOME EXPRESSION GOVERNMENT INTEREST TO SMOOTH THE WAY FOR ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE ABOUT TO BE DISCUSSED.

2. AT SAME TIME GOB CONTINUES TO BE MOST INTERESTED IN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION, AND WOULD ESPECIALLY WELCOME A VISIT HERE OF SECRETARY BUTZ. THAT SUBJECT IS REGARDED AS SEPARATE, HOWEVER.

3. INTEREST HAS NOW FOCUSSED ON UNIVERSITY OF CALIF-
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ORNIA AT DAVIS, AND LUKANOV HAS SENT LETTER TO DR.

KENDALL, HEAD OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DEPT (WHO MAY BE AT BERKELEY), PROPOSING JOINT PLANNING FOR "UNIQUE" VERTICALLY INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR PRODUCTION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN THE PLOVDIV AREA. LUKANOV MAINTAINS THIS WOULD INVOLVE TWO-WAY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN WHICH BULGARIANS COULD MAKE CONTRIBUTION, AND ALSO WOULD FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR SALES OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT.

4. IN TERMS OF COOPERATION IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AS PROPOSED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AT ROME CONFERENCE AS WELL AS POSSIBLE SALES OF US TECHNOLOGY AND MACHINERY, EMBASSY BELIEVES LUKANOV PROPOSAL DESERVES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND FOLLOW-UP. IT IS REQUESTED THAT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BE INFORMED OF US GOVERNMENT INTEREST AND THAT UNIVERSITY'S INITIAL REACTION TO PROPOSAL BE ASCERTAINED. HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA02308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740370-1066
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741218/aaaaapjz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 NOV 11
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOB INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, PFOR, BU, UNIV OF CALIFORNIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005